- the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

10. Services of CPSUs have been offered to the states for assisting them in the execution of rural electrification projects as per their willingness and requirement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Action Plan of the scheme is as below:—

Year	No. of villages to be electrified
2005-06	10,000
2006-07	40,000
2007-08	40,000
2008-09	10,000
TOTAL:	1,00,000

(e) Question does not arise.

Scheme to make sea water drinkable

†*433. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are having any scheme to make sea water drinkable;

(b) if so, the details of these schemes and whether work on these schemes has started and the target set for their completion; and

(c) the cost per litre likely to be incurred in the process of conversion of sea water into potable water?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an autonomous body of the Ministry, had taken up a scheme to design, develop and demonsrate technology for conversion of sea water into freshwater based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

After having experiments in the laboratory, a LTTD desalination plant with a capacity of 1-lakh litre per day was commissioned in May 2005 at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep. This plant has been inoperational continuously. This plant was handed ove to the Administration, Lakshadweep on 3rd March, 2006, which has been contributing to the needs of the population of Kavaratti, To cater to the needs of large population of coastal cities of India, development of higher capacity desalination plants is underway. An LTTD desalination plant with a capacity one Million Litre per day (MLD) has been designed, developed and demonstrated on experimental basis on the barge of Chennai in the first week of May 2006.

(c) The estimated cost of production of fresh water, being operated at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, is 7- paise litre. It is expected to come down for 1 Million per day plant to 6 paise per litre.

Low R and D expenditure in the country

*434. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present total R and D expenditure is nearly 0.7 per cent of GDP, of which 15 per cent is undertaken by the corporate sector;

(b) if so, whether it is adequate as compared to even less developed country like Korea, where it is around 2.47 per cent and their corproate sector share is only 3-4 per cent; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take so that our R and D expenditure is at least 2 per cent of the GDP and R and D is critical for improving productivity?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. as per the latest available official statistics, 2004-05 the R&D expenditure as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the year 2002-03 was around 0.80% of which 25% was contributed by corporate sector comprising public and private industries. Incase of developed countries, the R&D expenditure is of the order of 2 to 3% of GDP of which major contribution comes from the corporate sector. For example, in Korea, indstry contributes about 75% of the total R&D expenditure. However, any comprison of these numbers and any